

What is the purpose of the broadcast flag? According to its proponents, it will protect their content from being illegally accessed. However, there are other ways to protect their content which are far less odious, using any of a number of existing encryption technologies. This would be better in two ways: (1) It would not outlaw general purpose computing - a much larger and more significant component of our economy than media, I might add.

(2) It would work. The broadcast flag is like putting a sign next to the big red button that says "don't push me". It's stupid, and easily thwarted. Better to put the button under lock and key, if it's truly important to protect it.

The broadcast flag is unnecessary, virtually useless, and harmful to both consumers and the information technology industry. It would be a great mistake to promote such lopsided thinking.

It's time big media got with the times and learned a little bit about how to actually use technology, rather than how to regulate it.